

Supervisors Room, Courthouse
Pocahontas, Iowa
October 31, 2023

The Board of Supervisors of Pocahontas County, Iowa, met for a regular meeting. Members present: Chairman, Brent Aden; Supervisors, Jeff Ives, Louis Stauter, Clarence Siepker, Kyle Smith; and Auditor, Kelly Jepsen. Others present: Reporter, Erin Sommers.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Smith, to approve the minutes from October 24, 2023 as presented. Ayes all, motion carried.

The agenda was approved as posted on motion by Stauter, seconded by Ives. Ayes all, motion carried.

Haley Keihn, with Palo Alto County Health Systems, and Alison Hauser, Coordinator of Disability Services, met telephonically with the Board to discuss fees for services. Motion by Siepker, seconded by Stauter, to contract for one year with Haley Keihn to provide substance abuse services for one year starting November 1, 2023, up to the amount the County currently has available through the Opioid Litigation funding. Ayes all, motion carried. Keihn will use the funds as payment of last resort.

Jack Moellering, County Engineer, advised that the utility permit for Iowa Lakes Electric is not ready for approval. He also presented a PT Seasonal Patrol Operator's job description to be given to Paul Greufe, Pocahontas County's HR Representative. The bridge on C-49, North of Palmer, is now open. Supplemental abutments are in progress. The one north of Varina, just needs the concrete poured then it will be ready to be opened. The next supplemental abutment to be completed will be the one NE of Lizard Lake.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Ives, to appoint Jim Hodgell to the Veterans Affairs Commission to fill the remainder of the term ending on December 31, 2023. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Smith, to approve the quote for \$6,615.00 from Motorola Solutions for two body cameras for the Sheriff's Department. Ayes all, motion carried.

The Board discussed the needed repairs to the Courthouse Parking Lot and modification to make it much easier to move snow in the Winter. The exit on the East side of the parking lot is not wide enough to accommodate Secondary Roads' plows, which assist with snow removal. After looking at the parking lot, a motion was made by Smith, seconded by Siepker, to approve the plans with the additional work to the East and authorized the bid specs to be sent out for bid. Ayes all, motion carried. Additional work to the East would include replacing the far East portion of the parking lot with new concrete that will be 16 feet wide. Current width is 12 feet. Assistant to the Engineer/Drainage Clerk, Gary Atherton participated in the discussion.

Two bids for radon mitigation for the Courthouse were reviewed: The Radon Guys, LLC from Estherville, IA for \$42,635.00; and Professional House Doctors, Inc. from Des Moines, IA for \$24,900.00. Motion by Siepker, seconded by Smith, to accept Professional House Doctors, Inc.'s bid for \$24,900.00. Ayes all, motion carried.

Jepsen presented pictures of capital assets that are no longer utilized by the county and proposed selling the items through sealed bids. Motion by Stauter, seconded by Ives, to authorize the Auditor to dispose of fixed assets as per policy through sealed bids in accordance to the Pocahontas County Capital Asset Policy. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Ives, to cancel the normal Board of Supervisors' meeting on Tuesday, November 7th, due to the City/School Election. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Siepker, to approve Jt. DD 9-13 Br. 1 claim from Pocahontas County Secondary Roads for ditch repair in the amount of \$1,276.11. Ayes all, motion carried. Location of repair: SW Quarter of Section 31, Bellville Township.

Weekly meetings: Ives-Snow fence concerns; Stauter-CFR; Aden-Midas, Solid Waste business and met with the County Treasurer; Siepker-Visioning Committee, Upper Des Moines, Rolling Hills and Conservation; and Smith-Nothing.

The information being shared on the Pocahontas County Sheriff's Department Facebook page and the what the Sheriff's Department employees are posting on their personal Facebook page while on and off the clock was discussed. After discussion on maintaining the integrity of the election, the Supervisors unanimously decided to have Supervisor Smith tell the Sheriff's Department to remove all information concerning the jail from the Sheriff's Department's Facebook page and request that employees not post anything to do with the jail on their personal Facebook page.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Smith, to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all, motion carried.

Brent Aden, Chairman

Kelly Jepsen, County Auditor